

Panelist Talking Points

The following are questions that could be used for panel presentations or for a speaker's talking points. It can be beneficial for the speaker(s) as well as the success of your event to provide questions or talking points beforehand. That way the speaker(s) have a clear understanding of the topics to cover and you will put on a more engaging presentation.

Although these are generally helpful, presentations should always be customized to the specific presentation and speakers being hosted.

Overview/General Questions:

1. Tell us a little about your firm/office.
2. Can you share a bit about your career path to your current position?
3. What do you enjoy most about your job? What do you find most frustrating? Was there anything that surprised you about this job or that was unexpected (either good or bad)?
4. For a student interested in a similar career, what advice would you give that person now? What are the essential skills to obtain? What sort of experience serves best?

For panelists discussing areas of law/ practice:

1. What do you wish someone had told you about?
2. How did you first learn about this area or practice?
3. How did you know it would be a good fit for you?
4. What qualities or factors would make someone successful in this practice area?
5. What kind of entry-level positions are available in this practice area?
6. Where might a law student / new lawyer obtain transferrable skills with the goal of moving into this practice area?

For panelists discussing jobs/opportunities:

1. Please discuss the opportunities available with your employer (for students and/or for new attorneys). How many law clerks or new attorneys do you typically hire each year? Walk us through your hiring process – what application materials do you accept? What is the timeline for hiring?
2. What do you think helped to set you apart and helped you “make the cut” for an interview with your current employer?
3. What are some of the duties of clerks at your office – did you do mostly research and writing or did you get to take part in case preparation?